



State of North Carolina  
Office of the Governor

*Michael F. Easley*  
Governor

---

Release: **IMMEDIATE**  
Date: December 1, 2003

Contact: Samantha Slapnik  
Phone: (919) 733-5612

---

**GOVERNOR EASLEY ANNOUNCES NUMBER ONE RANKINGS FOR  
N.C. TEACHERS**

*N.C. Leads Nation for New Certifications and Total Number of National Board Certified Teachers*

**RALEIGH** - Gov. Mike Easley announced today North Carolina once again leads the nation in the number of teachers who have earned certification by the National Board of Professional Teaching Standards. This year's addition of 1,509 newly certified teachers, the largest class in the country, brings the state total to 6,646 national board certified teachers.

"Earning National Board Certification is no easy task," said Easley. "It requires teachers to demonstrate outstanding teaching methods and considerable content knowledge in their chosen subjects."

"These rankings show our teachers are deeply committed to the children and to education in this state. I am proud of what they have achieved and what that means for our public schools," said Easley.

National Board Certification requires an extensive series of performance-based assessments including teaching portfolios, student work samples, videotapes and thorough analyses of the candidates' classroom teaching and student learning. Teachers also complete a series of written exercises that probe the depth of their subject-matter knowledge, as well as their understanding of how to teach those subjects to their students.

North Carolina supports teachers' efforts to achieve National Board Certification in the following ways:

- Payment up front of the \$2,300 assessment fee. (Teachers are obligated to teach in the state the following year whether they achieve certification.)